

VIETNAM COURIER

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Between the night of May 11 and May 15, 1969

400 TARGETS IN 80 CITIES AND URBAN CENTRES

The NFL Ten Points Show the Way to a Viet Nam Settlement

ON November 3, 1969 while announcing its acceptance to participate in the Paris Conference, the NFL proclaimed its five points which should guide the Conference work and serve as the basis for any final solution to the Vietnam problem. On May 11, 1969, at the Conference, meeting time after time and a half months of negotiations as a result of U.S. bad faith, a new text was presented to it by the NFL representative; that is the principles and main content of the ten-point overall solution to the South Vietnamese problem to help restore peace in Vietnam.

Stemming both from the NFL Political Program passed in August 1969, these two successive documents are pervaded with the same spirit of independence and peace — true independence in genuine peace. With the spirit of independence, the NFL position concerning a Vietnam settlement has now been made clear in a detailed and concrete manner and the parties concerned can take it as a basis to conclude agreements with which to crown the Conference.

The tenor of the NFL proposal from its beginning to its end is the principle of respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, for the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese. To make possible the full exercise of those rights, the NFL document stresses, first of all, U.S. aggression against Vietnam should be ended, and more particularly the United States should withdraw from South Vietnam all U.S. and satellite troops and military personnel, without setting any condition whatsoever. A clear distinction should be drawn between the withdrawal of U.S. and satellite troops and the problem of Vietnamese forces in South Vietnam, the latter issue coming under the sole competence of the Vietnamese parties concerned.

The South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination is embodied in their freedom to choose their own government. The NFL has been favouring free, democratic general elections to form such a government. Now in the overall solution, it gives an unshakable answer to the question: who will be responsible for the organizing of general election? It will be — the NFL says — a provisional coalition government resulting from negotiations between "the political forces representing the various social strata and political leaders in South Vietnam that stand for peace, independence and neutrality". Isn't this an appropriate proposal fully conforming to the spirit of national concord and large union?

The NFL ten points once again reaffirm the foreign policy of peace and neutrality to be implemented by a South Vietnam free from American control. They also outline a process of peaceful and gradual reunification of both zones of Vietnam. What is noteworthy here is that they confirm that the existence of a military demarcation line and demilitarized zone separating the two parts of Vietnam, the NFL makes it a point to stress that the former is only of a provisional character and should not be considered in any way a political or territorial boundary. The NFL calls up to the two zones to come to terms on the statute of the demilitarized zone and work out modalities for movements across the provisional demarcation line. This is a relevant answer to the U.S. attempt to transform the DMZ issue into a subject to be discussed by the four-party Conference and a

(Continued page 2)

NORTH VIET NAM

A F4 Phantom fighter-bomber and 2 unmanned spy planes respectively grounded in Quang Binh province on May 17 and over Haiphong on May 18 and 23.

Total loss in U.S. planes between August 5, 1969 and May 23, 1969:

3,291

Including 23 Airfields and 33 Bases, HQs and CPs of Army Corps, Divisions, Brigades and Regiments Attacked by PLAF

Preliminary Reports:

15 Battalions and Equivalent Units and an Armoured Corps of the U.S.-Puppets Destroyed or Decimated

PAGE II

Quang Nam province
PLAF men in action.



PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM HOLDS 18th PLENARY SESSION

(May 22, 1969)

THE Saigon administration, to the ten-point overall solution, was voiced by the puppet's representative at the 18th plenary session of the Paris Conference. A number of U.S. representatives, Cabot Lodge reiterated the "mutual withdrawal of troops" plea contained in President Nixon's May 1 speech, used various arguments to prove that the U.S. was for the respect of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination. The U.S. was only to camouflage U.S. intention to continue in the office the rotten and warlike Thieu-Ky-Huynh regime as tool for the achievement of U.S. neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam.

NFL delegate Tran Bau Kiem pointed out that the U.S. was not in favor of troops "this is testified of the American rulers' stubborn denial to the Vietnamese people of their fundamental national rights and right to self-determination, face of U.S. aggression. In sticking to it, the men in Washington persisted in putting an equal footing on aggression and those who oppose aggression and in confusing the issues between the United States and the Vietnamese people with those to be settled among Vietnamese parties. Recalling Mr. Nixon's proposed two-stage withdrawal of

U.S. troops, the first stage of which lasting 12 months and the second having no definite time limit, the chief negotiator said that this was a proof of the U.S. design to protract American military presence in South Viet Nam so as to gain time to consolidate the puppet army and administration and to "de-Americanize" and "Vietnamize" the war.

The French envoy severely censured the American rulers' disregard of the idea of a coalition government when dealing with "free elections". On the other hand, he disclosed plans on Nguyen Van Thieu's six-point plan which demanded that members of the NFL "resist" and "participate" in elections organized within the framework of the Saigon constitution. "The Thieu-Ky-Huynh regime is really illegal and represents nothing", said Mr. Tran Bau Kiem.

The NFL supports the struggle of South Viet Nam towards the removal of that administration and its replacement by a peace cabinet with a view to putting an early end to the war.

Taking the floor in his turn, DRVN delegation spoke with their views on the necessity of the withdrawal of U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, with

no condition attached; this was a touchstone of soundness of any solution offered by Vietnamese negotiators. The NFL ten-point overall solution enjoyed the warm support from world opinion, precisely because it met the demands of the people. On the contrary, Mr. Nixon's 14 May speech was not reasonable because it included the "mutual withdrawal of troops" which had been rejected by the NFL and the DRVN. The reason given by Mr. Nixon for his proposal was that the U.S. had been coldhandedly applied its activities and recently demanded that US military bases be removed from her territory. Great Britain, though supporting the US policy of aggression, has been assailed by financial difficulties and has been obliged to withdraw its forces from such countries for a more efficient defence of her Middle East interests. Thailand and the Philippines had been forced by the US to ship in troops for the war of aggression in Viet Nam, but now they have begun to complain about the too heavy burdens imposed on their shoulders by the US, for which they have been receiving little in return. The Thailand's Foreign Minister, a man known as a docile agent of the US, has

just suggested that the Seato be transformed into a political forum instead of remaining a military alliance, whereas his Filipino counterpart wondered whether it would be advisable simply to wind up the military bloc (UPI May 2).

It is in such conditions that Seato members, from France, to the USA, have been for the last three years boycotting its sessions and militarily supporting Pakistan. The withdrawal of U.S. troops, Mr. Xuan Thuy pointed out, would be a step forward followed by massacres in South Viet Nam. This held no water the DRVN chief negotiator said, since it was none other than the United States that had been deployed its "indispensable" war machine in massacres of South Vietnamese.

Mr. Xuan Thuy denounced the NFL's intensification of "massing up" operations in South Viet Nam and repeated violations of the sovereignty and threats to the security of the DRVN. He concluded that although the NFL had come forth with its ten-point overall solution, it had not made any headway precisely because the U.S. was still holding to its warlike and neo-colonialist policy.

Quan doi Nhan Dan (People's Army, May 21, 1969)

The NFL Ten Points...

(Continued on page 1)

symbol of the defence of the separate State of South Vietnam against the alleged invasion by the North Vietnamese!

It is easy to imagine the warm welcome accorded by the whole world and especially by American opinion to the NFL ten-point all round solution. For several months now, the American nation has been expecting President Nixon to live up to his electoral pledge to achieve a prompt cessation of the Viet Nam war. Day after day has passed, and the list of U.S. casualties has been only growing longer; neither the change in military strategy nor the massive use of B-52s has contributed to improve the position of the U.S. Democratic and Republican congressmen alike have got impatient. Businessmen have voiced their dissent. A whole city council — that of Chicago — by an unanimous vote urged President Nixon to bring home the GIs. And

now there appears the NFL overall solution which shows the way to a rational settlement, to an "honorable peace" for the United States!

It is now transparent that Mr. Nixon failed to stop U.S. aggression against Viet Nam. He did not want to withdraw from South Viet Nam U.S. and satellite troops since he kept on setting terms to such a withdrawal. He also refused to recognize the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination since he threw the weight of his support behind traitor Nguyen Van Thieu's six points which proposed that the NFL lay down its weapons and rally the Saigon puppet administration.

It is true that Mr. Nixon still hopes that time will work in his favour and will help him secure a position of strength from which he will be able to sell his peace programme to the Paris Conference but all this is sheer illusion! A similar hope was once entertained by Mr. Johnson and his aides. Some of the latter however have been awakened to this bitter reality: the situation, far from improving, goes unceasingly from bad to worse for the American aggressors. Will Mr. Nixon wait until the total collapse of his house of cards to lead a more attentive ear to the NFL's proposal?

As can be seen, the solution proposed by the NFL is an "all-round" one. All important aspects of a just settlement of the war and international supervision of the withdrawal from South Viet Nam of U.S. and satellite troops.

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Mr. Nixon is clever enough to even pay tribute to the NFL initiative. But to a shrewd observer what is important is the American President's own conception of a solution to the Viet Nam

War. What are Mr. Nixon's true intentions? What his generals are doing in South Viet Nam and what he himself just declared in Washington on May 14 are convergent and cast a strong light on his

Hanoi Press Opinion

Tottering SEATO

ON May 20, 1969, the US-led Seato aggressive military bloc met in Bangkok. For the last few years, it has been nodding to its disintegration. US heavy setbacks in the Viet Nam war and aggression by the American leadership of the imperialist camp and badly hurt its influence with its satellites. France, one of Seato founding members, has been for the last three years boycotting its sessions and militarily supporting Pakistan. The US has been coldhandedly applied its activities and recently demanded that US military bases be removed from her territory. Great Britain, though supporting the US policy of aggression, has been assailed by financial difficulties and has been obliged to withdraw its forces from such countries for a more efficient defence of her Middle East interests.

It is clear that the U.S. imperialists are endeavouring to get out of the present quagmire, thereby exposing the difficulties and weaknesses of the Seato and the threat of collapse now plaguing the Seato as well as the Nato and the Centeo are indicative of the utter insolence of the US and of the fiasco of its policy of aggressive military alliances.

Quan doi Nhan Dan (People's Army, May 21, 1969)

train the pupil into a new man with well-balanced and all-round development and not simply to teach knowledge. Every year, the President commands good teachers and good pupils.

THE NORTH-GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY, JUNE 1

Tending the Young Shoots of the Fatherland

HO TRUC

Vice-Minister of Education,
Secretary of the Viet Nam Working Youth Union

PRESIDENT HO AND "SPRING OF HUMANITY"

THE year begins with Spring. Life begins with youth. Youth and humanity. These words are taken from President Ho Chi Minh's letter to the youth and children throughout the country on the occasion of New Year's Day 1969. Shortly after the triumph of the August Revolution and the foundation of the DRVN, President Ho Chi Minh sent a letter to the pupils on the occasion of the beginning of term (Sept. 1945) "Listen to me, my dear pupils, my dear children", he wrote. "Listen to a person who has always been earnestly wishing for your progress. In the coming school year, strive to be industrious in learning, to be well, obey your teachers and emulate your friends. Eighty years of slavery have weakened and disgraced our country. To lay we must restore the heritage left by our ancestors in such a way that we can carry on our revolution on this globe. In this reconstruction work, the country places much hope and trust in you. Whether the land of Viet Nam will regain its glory, or whether the Vietnamese nation will have the right to march ahead with the greatest power of the five continents or not depends largely on your efforts in learning..."

And so, it has become a custom since the August Revolution, every year, on the occasion of the Mid-Autumn Festival (1) or the new school year, Uncle Ho writes letters to encourage and enlighten Vietnamese children. It is true that Mr. Nixon still hopes that time will work in his favour and will help him secure a position of strength from which he will be able to sell his peace programme to the Paris Conference but all this is sheer illusion!

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Week of International Solidarity with the Arab People

Support for Arab People's Just Cause

by **TON QUANG PHIET**
President, Viet Nam Asian-African
Solidarity Committee

ARAB People's Just Cause International Conference in Support of the Arab People decided that a Week of International Solidarity with the Arab People would be held throughout the world at the end of May.

Today, the Middle East Crisis dragging, because the Israeli aggressors still persist in refusing to withdraw from the areas that invaded during the war of aggression against the Arab countries in early June 1967. There they are stepping up persecution of Arabs, driving hundreds of thousands of them from their native land. The Israeli aggressors have also staged military provocative actions against Arab countries. Especially since early this year, they have repeatedly sent aircraft, tanks and commands across the cease-fire boundary to attack the Arab Arab Republics, Syria, the Lebanon and the other Arab countries.

The Western imperialists, chiefly the U.S. and British imperialists, are behind the Israeli aggressors, the Arab people are strengthening solidarity and resorting to all methods of struggle to defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity. They have moved out due punishment to the Israeli provocateurs, by shooting down many aircraft, destroying many tanks, and

wiping out many enemy troops.

It is clear that no violence can subdue the Arab people. So long as the Israeli aggressors pull out of the Arab areas, they have invaded and so long as the legitimate national rights of the Palestine people continue to be flouted, the Arab people will carry on their national fight to complete victory. The struggle of the world's peoples for national independence and peace has developed even more vigorously and recorded greater successes. By continuing the trend of history and obstinately clinging to the policies of aggression and expansion, the U.S. imperialists and the Israeli reactionary clique will certainly meet with failure.

The Vietnamese people

fully sympathize with, and support the just struggle of the Arab people. They strongly condemn the Israeli aggressors, henchmen of the U.S. imperialists, that within the territories from the Arab territories they have invaded and resented the Arab countries sovereignty and territorial integrity and the legitimate national rights of the Arab people in Palestine.

On the occasion of the Week of International Solidarity with the Arab People, the Vietnamese people convey their greetings of national solidarity and express their conviction that, with the strength of unity and the broad support from the world's peoples, the Arab people's just cause will

fully succeed in the struggle of the Arab people.

Among representatives from Sweden, were Professor Gunnar Myrdal, President of the Swedish Committee in Support of Viet Nam; Pierre Sartre, member of the External Commission of the ruling Social-Democratic Party; and among delegates from the United States, Professor Noam Chomsky, Professor Richard Falk, Minister Thomas Lee Hayes.

After two days of discussion, the Conference wound up with important conclusions.

Politically, it was agreed, signature-collecting campaigns, meetings and demonstrations were to be staged in all countries against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam, for withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Viet

Nam, and for the masses, backing of the NFL overall solution and structures of world people. The appeal condemned the NFL's "peace program". The delegates unanimously resolved to push up fundraising drives, first of all to increase medical aid to the Arab areas, and prepare for massive assistance to Viet Nam after the achievement of a genuine peace.

The heads of the NFL and RVVN delegations, Mrs Nguyen Thi Binh and Mr Nguyen Minh Vy, took the floor and appealed to the delegates for their devoted work in support of the Vietnamese people.

In his closing speech, Mr Bertil Svennberg, chairman of the Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam, pointed out that the successes of the movement, though substantial, were only initial steps. To attain its goal, which is U.S. withdrawal of all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam without any conditions, the world's peoples must be mobilized into a broader, more persistent movement in support of Viet Nam.

The Conference in a body passed an appeal to the Nixon government, criticizing the war and bombings in South Viet Nam and continued violations of the sovereignty and repeated threats to the Marxist Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, in pursuance of the disastrous, bankrupt policies of Lyndon Johnson. This must stop. The overall solution proposed by the NFL at the Paris Conference clearly demonstrated the sense of solidarity and goodwill of the Vietnamese people. The fundamental rights of the Vietnamese people — independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity — recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreement. It conforms to the realities of the situation in South Viet Nam. It expresses the national and the aspirations of all sections of the people of South Viet Nam. This important document is a welcome initiative aimed at promoting progress at the earliest possible time, providing a reasonable solution to end the war in Viet Nam and consolidating peace in Indo-China and South-East Asia.

The appeal went on:

"We call on all governments and peoples to support this ten-point solution and to demand that the U.S. government take indispensable actions to restore peace in Viet Nam, namely the complete withdrawal of all U.S. and allied troops without any conditions whatever, to allow the people of South Viet Nam to settle their own affairs, without any foreign interference..."

The principles and main content of the overall solution to the South Viet Nam problem put forth by the Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam, the 16th session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam continue to receive warm support from many international and national organizations in various countries.

Indignant at the naked acts of aggression and barbarism of the Israeli aggressors, the Arab people are strengthening solidarity and resorting to all methods of struggle to defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity. They have moved out due punishment to the Israeli provocateurs, by shooting down many aircraft, destroying many tanks, and

fully supporting the just struggle of the Arab people. They strongly condemn the Israeli aggressors, henchmen of the U.S. imperialists, that within the territories from the Arab territories they have invaded and resented the Arab countries sovereignty and territorial integrity and the legitimate national rights of the Arab people in Palestine.

Mass Organisations throughout the World Support NFL Ten Points

ican people and peace-loving people in the world."

On behalf of hundreds of millions of progressive youth in the five continents, the International Democratic Democratic Youth expressed its unstinted support to the NFL overall solution and call on the world's youth to warmly respond to "this innovative and historic initiative".

The NFL ten-point overall solution has also enlisted the staunch support of the International Conference of the International Maritime Transport, Ports and Fishing Workers.

Trade Unions held in Berlin, from May 12 to 18.

Many meetings of mass organizations were held in socialist countries and other countries to welcome the important document. Let's mention similar meetings staged by workers of the Electrique Waggon Workshop (Belgium), French and foreign students at the University (near Paris) and at the Antony Residence Universitaire (suburb of Paris), the Japan-Viet Nam Friendship Association (Tokyo) etc.

(See also the news about the International Conference on Viet Nam held in Stockholm.)

VIET NAM COURIER

STOCKHOLM VIET NAM CONFERENCE CALLS ON MASSES TO BACK NFL OVERALL SOLUTION

HE Conference for Urgent Actions for Viet Nam opened in the Swedish capital on May 10, attended by 300 delegates from 21 international organizations and more than 50 countries.

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Tending the Young Shoots of the Fatherland

(Continued from page 3)

children save up terms to look after their school fees. During the 1967-1968 school year, apart from playing and revising their lessons, Ho Tay children were still able to eat 2,468 tons of grass as fodder for 20,000 buffaloes. Many of them undertook to look after skinny buffaloes and oxen and coped with feeding them up into fat and robust animals. The Binh, Sin and Ngoc trio of Ha Bac province sold to the State trademarks for a piglet pig they had raised themselves. They decided to sent one-third of the proceeds as a gift to their little friends in the poor areas of the South Viet Nam. National Personnel Representation in Hanoi.

Virtually everywhere, assistance to families of disabled or fallen armymen, soldiers and youth volunteers has become a routine of children. In a number of provinces, they joined in clean-ups in capturing spy-commandos and U.S. pilots.

It is precisely by their love for learning that Vietnamese children have shown their love for the country. Under intense enemy bombing, they still insisted on going to school; he soon learned to use his foot to write; his resolve helped him through every difficulty; he had got his 7-year elementary school certificate. For 2 years running, he had won prizes given by Uncle Ho for his all-sided achievements in learning. His mother, a widow, was 24 times given back lost property to their owners. On a cold winter night, on his way from school, he left on a padded jacket left on the roadside with 20 "dongs" in one of its pockets. He waited for a long time until the daylight came to come back, but in vain. He took the coat home. Next day, a holiday, he spent the whole day looking for the spot where the garment had been found the previous night, hoping to meet its owner. It was again his masterpiece. Finally he chose to take the jacket and money to the local police station.

Although the U.S. imperialists dropped millions of bombs on North Viet Nam, yet they still insisted on invading the children and to prevent them from learning and from playing. The children call the tramp-cards capable of creating a position of strength had been exhausted by Johnson and had proved quite ineffective. Yet, he keeps raving for a "position of strength"! Should he fail to draw the bitter lesson from Johnson, he would be blamed for all the past mistakes of his predecessor, but would also commit a new, more serious mistake in the last phase of the war already handicapped by errors and setbacks.

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right hand, crushed. And the first words she spoke to the hospital attendant were: "Oh, auntie, how can I from now on carry my youngest brother for a stroll?"

JOHNSON had promised many things and committed many mistakes. Nixon is promising much more. But the over 1,000 people drowned in Ba Lang An, the 350 others killed at Krong H'King, the Catholic village of H'Kong, the 100,000 to the ground etc. since he came into office, supply an many irrefutable proofs that he has lied and is lying shamelessly. No doubt, the B52s will not let the children in South Viet Nam keep their day peacefully, but surely they will not be able to prevent them from keeping it.

CHILD CARE, THE WORK OF THE ENTIRE PEOPLE

CHILD CARE, THE WORK OF THE ENTIRE PEOPLE

THESE fine deeds performed by children can be credited to the education given by the regime, especially by President Ho Chi Minh who, like Uncle Ho, believed in the education of the children.

Ho Chi Minh, and relying on the people who have a tradition of love and sacrifice for children, we shall surely bring in a crop of new men who will continue to uphold the glorious cause of independence, democracy, and freedom, and who constantly promote the sense of solidarity with friends in all 3 continents.

As the President's instructions, our entire people are taking care of the children. Parents in many parts of the country are building "five-good families" which provide among other things good

military sub-sector HQ's were attacked. Division HQ's and Regiment HQ's were assaulted in My Lai and Ben Tre. Several airfields as well as military training camps and logistic bases were hit.

The PLAF were also very active in the provinces of Can Tho, Kien Giang and An Giang (Plan of Reeds), Go Cong, Rach Gia and Ca Mau.

Why is U.S. Aggression in South Viet Nam...

(Continued from page 4)

(such as massive troop buildup in South Viet Nam, use of air and naval power for fleet attacks against North Viet Nam, human war budget) he turned out to be a failure in this effort. At the present juncture, Nixon is faced with a difficult situation caused by the fact that all the trump-cards of creating a position of strength had been exhausted by Johnson and had proved quite ineffective. Yet, he keeps raving for a "position of

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"Ah yes, my kid has taken it into his head that a severed leg can grow again, like the young banana shoots in our garden, beside the mother tree."

These children's words rent the hearts of many who happened to be there.

Then, there is also this

story for which we cannot yet find an appropriate title:

On April 8, 1966 during a U.S. air raid on a place of Cat Ba island, a man and his wife were killed. Behind five kids the eldest of whom was a girl of 14 and the youngest, 9 months old. Mui, the young girl, became the head of the family. With the help of the neighbours and the army, she did her best to run the small household when two months later during another air raid on June 15, 1967 all the five were wounded. Mui was most grievously hit. When she came to on the hospital bed, she found that her left leg had been cut off and her

provinces after doing his lessons at night, went pest killing with an oil lamp in the rice fields late hours in little Dan of Nghe An province did not halt reading even while tending a buffalo calf; thanks to his care, he was skinny at first, grew fat and strong after some time.

Taking Uncle Ho's advice about good observance of hygiene, the children zealously kill flies, mosquitoes and rats and with one another in their free time "cleans" movement clean food, clean drink, clean habits.

President Ho Chi Minh also encouraged modesty and honesty in the people, especially in the children. In the harsh conditions of war, Vietnamese children have been fine as little flowers with their subtle fragrance. The return of lost property to their owners is not unusual. Uncle Ho's promise has 24 times given back lost property to their owners. On a cold winter night, on his way from school, he left on a padded jacket left on the roadside with 20 "dongs" in one of its pockets. He waited for a long time until the daylight came to come back, but in vain. He took the coat home. Next day, a holiday, he spent the whole day looking for the spot where the garment had been found the previous night, hoping to meet its owner. It was again his masterpiece. Finally he chose to take the jacket and money to the local police station.

Vietnamese children are well educated in the sense of collectivity, unity and mutual assistance, the spirit of respect for social wealth and protection of public property. Nguyen Ba Ngoc, a boy of 14, sold his land to the State for 1,000,000,000. He had been born in a poor family. His parents had 12 children. His mother died when he was 10. His father was a fisherman. His father chose to take the jacket and money to the local police station.

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story for which we cannot yet find an appropriate title:

On April 8, 1966 during a U.S. air raid on a place of Cat Ba island, a man and his wife were killed. Behind five kids the eldest of whom was a girl of 14 and the youngest, 9 months old. Mui, the young girl, became the head of the family. With the help of the neighbours and the army, she did her best to run the small household when two months later during another air raid on June 15, 1967 all the five were wounded. Mui was most grievously hit. When she came to on the hospital

ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

MILITARY OPERATIONS

GIAI PHONG Press Agency has just summed up PLAF activities in the first 4 days of the new wave of offensives on the night of May 11 throughout South Viet Nam.

In the first days of their assaults in the first days of May in the sectors of Tay Ninh and Long Khanh to the Northwest and Northeast of Saigon respectively, of Da Nang (the Western Highlands) and of Da Nang, the PLAF sprang into action in the small hours of May 12 in all theatres of operation, from the areas close to the 17th parallel down to the Ca Mau peninsula in the Southernmost sector of the country.

According to still incomplete initial statistics, 400 targets were hit by the PLAF either by fire, by fire-bombing assaults, or by both. Eighty cities, provincial capitals and district towns came under fire as well as 23 airfields and 3310 houses and of logistic brigades, regiments or army corps size and logistic bases of the US-puppets.

Following is a general picture of various theatres of operation:

In the southern provinces of South Viet Nam (Quang Tri and Thua Thien), on the very first night, more than 20 raids were mounted. The whole defence line along the DMZ was shaken. Connection points such as Con Viet port, Dong Ha (US 101st Marine base), Cam Lanh, Tan Lao (known to Americans as Rockpile), Su Man (the Far West fort of the system), Gio Linh (arrested in the first night) were heavily bombed or assaulted by the PLAF, which triggered off big fires and inflicted heavy damage on the installations.

To the Southwest of Hue and in the hilly areas of this sector where elements of the U.S. 101st Airborne Division attempted a sweep to hold firm on Route 12, the PLAF in 4 days put nearly 1000 combat troops on action, destroying 3 U.S. battalions and 2 U.S. battalion C.P.s.

In the coastal fringe, they attacked the airfields of Ai Tu, Northwest of Quang Tri, Tay Ninh, Long Khanh, and Phu Bai, South of Hue. Fort Mang Ca in Hue was not spared.

In the 11 provinces of Central and South Trung Bo, to the Northeast of Saigon, between Da Nang and Phu

Thiet and in the Western Highlands, 220 targets were chosen by the PLAF for their strikes, including bases, positions, airfields and military depots in 7 cities and 20 districts. In the sector of the H.Q.'s, nearly 7,000 adverse casualties were listed among them, 4,000 G.I.'s, 5 infantry battalions, an armoured combat battalion, C.P.'s and some 20 companies wiped out or decimated, more than 100 military vehicles, 53 cannons and 6 logistic depots destroyed, 100 planes and helicopters shot down or burnt, and more than 300 weapons seized by the patriots.

Further South, 400 enemy soldiers were knocked out of action on the night of May 11 at Song Mao (20km East-Northeast of Saigon), the base camp of puppet Regiment 44.

In the Western Highlands, the H.Q.'s of Corps II in Pleiku and of the puppet 23rd Infantry Division in Buon Me Thot were hit. On the highways, several enemy convoys suffered heavy losses.

Meanwhile, the guerrillas and regional troops of the PLAF neutralized some 100 military posts and "pacification" teams.

An American L-19 plane downed in Tay Ninh province



attacked each 3 times. At Phuoc Tuong in the Da Nang port area, the PLAF struck the main base, destroying 2 U.S. companies, 3 launching ramps and dozens of missiles.

Further Southeast, in the Tam Ky, Chu Lai and Quang Ngai sectors, the 101st Airborne Division also sustained serious losses. Its C.P. and those of its 106th, 108th and 11th brigades as well as 3 battalions C.P.'s were raided and 2,000 G.I.'s put out of action. Puppet troops in the prov-

ince of Quang Nam were also badly mauled; losing several companies and an armoured sub-regiment put out of action or decimated, 1,400 casualties reported, 31 vehicles, 100 planes and helicopters downed and some 100 weapons seized by the PLAF.

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In the Western Highlands, the H.Q.'s of Corps II in Pleiku and of the puppet 23rd Infantry Division in Buon Me Thot were hit. On the highways, several enemy convoys suffered heavy losses.

Meanwhile, the guerrillas and regional troops of the PLAF neutralized some 100 military posts and "pacification" teams, and did away with what remained of the enemy coercive apparatus in the provinces.

In Eastern Nam Bo, i.e. on the Saigon front, the whole defence line in all directions and around the capital was shaken.

In Tay Ninh province, over 20 targets were attacked in force and battalions of the 101st Air Cav. were written off, one on May 12 at Ba Chiem (34km East-Northeast of Tay Ninh) and the other 3 days later at Phuoc Te (34km Northeast of Tay Ninh). A puppet paratroop battalion was wiped out on the night of May 11 at Tay Cho, about a dozen kilometres South-Southwest of Tay Ninh.

At about the same time, the PLAF destroyed one C.P. and depleted an artillery battalion of the Big Red One at Phuoc Long, 117km North-Northeast of Saigon. Less than 24 hours later, in the sector of Hon Quan, another provincial capital 60km North of Saigon, U.S. bases lost nearly 1,000 men killed or wounded, 105 armoured cars and trucks and 22

LATEST NEWS

Operation "Appach Snow" in the hilly areas west of Hue:

From May 12 to 21, 1,500 U.S. "paras" of the 101st Division killed or wounded, chiefly in A Bia mountains range.

Da Nang and Nuuoc Man airfield bombarded on the night of May 18: 25 planes and choppers destroyed, heavy material damage.

(Giai Phong Press Agency)

Biggest ammo depot in Saigon region completely blotted out by PLAF on May 23.

(Western reports)

National, Democratic and Peace Forces

Alliance backs NFL ten points

"Nixon Is Following Johnson's Beaten Track" Alliance's Leader Declares

In a statement dated May 15, 1968, Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces and the National, Democratic and Peace Forces, gave full support for the ten-point overall political program proposed by the NFL representative at the Paris Conference. The Alliance's President pointed

out that the spirit of this overall resolution was "completely consonant with the Manifesto for National Salvation and the Political program of the Alliance as well as with the political line followed by it for over a year now".

Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao called on all intellectuals and non-conformist political, religious, cultural and social groupings and organizations in South Vietnamese all peace-loving political parties and governments and all democratic and peace organizations throughout the world to lead a vigorous support to the NFL ten points.

The statement has it that the United States could finally find in those ten points the "honourable" way out it has been looking for. Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao said in his statement, the plan shown by the NFL, he added, was the only one that would enable the US to put an end to the dirty war which every day claimed billions, an image took a toll of the lives and wealth of its citizens and brought it only hatred from other nations.

The statement went on: "Such men in the Johnson team as were in favour of the continued presence of the U.S. in South Vietnam like Humphrey, Clifford, Goldberg, etc., have now raised their voices to urge a rapid withdrawal of U.S. soldiers. Influential political leaders, among whom Aiken, Scott, etc., have also called for the withdrawal of American troops from South Vietnam. Now, however, they should draw any lesson from his setbacks for a more intelligent political line in South Vietnam. In his eight-point political program he continued to stick to his pretentious and irrational (mutual withdrawal of troops) proposal and he did not let down his warlike claim of agents, etc. This Kyo-Long framework, which he wanted to entrust with the task of organizing eventual general elections."

"Nixon is following Johnson's beaten track", Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao concluded, "and the dirty war in Vietnam has been Nixon's creation". There is no doubt that more grievous setbacks are in store for the United States, as a result of its president's obstinacy and short-sighted policy."

(Continued page 7)